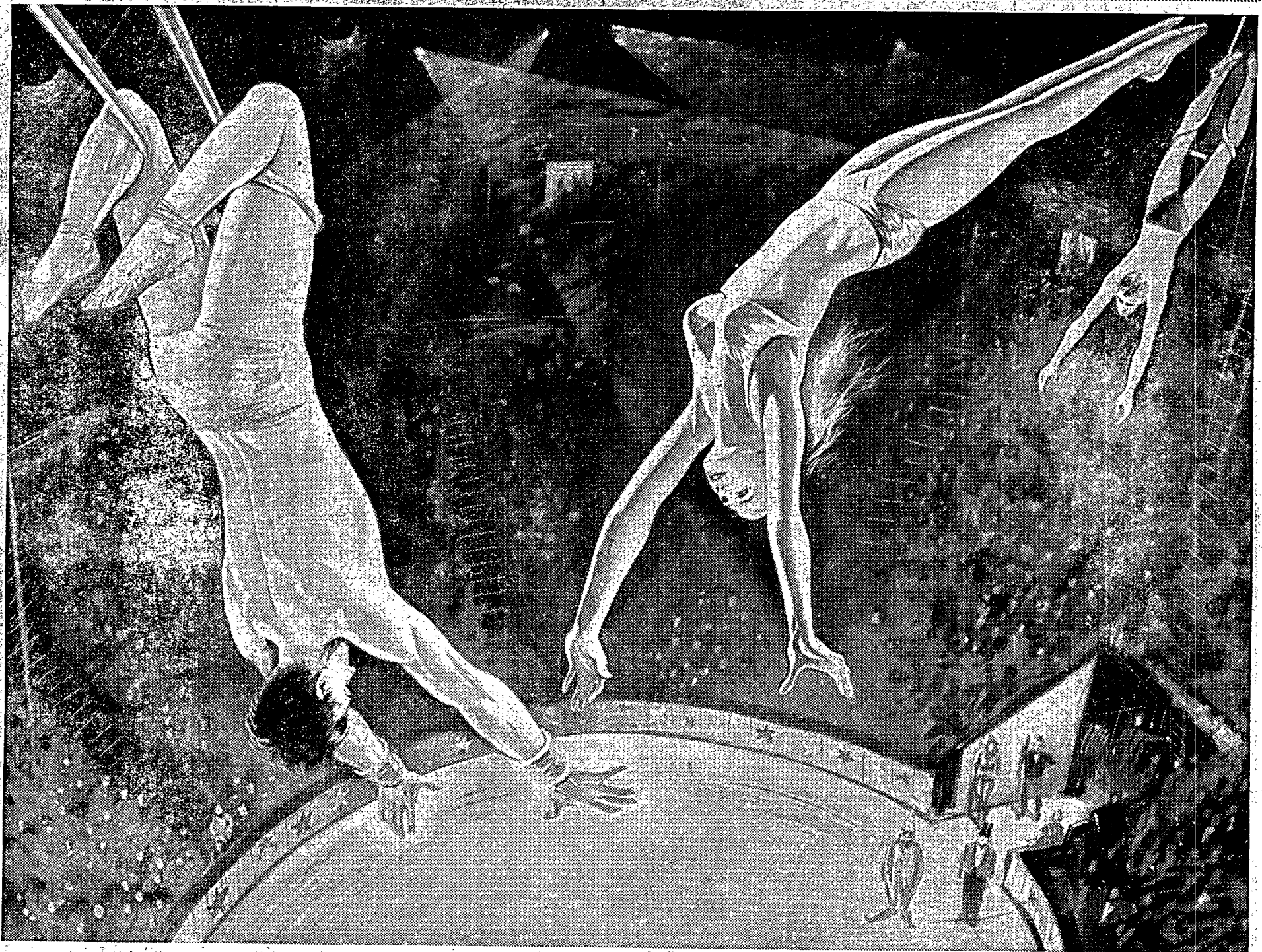


CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

Every Wednesday—Sixpence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

Week Ending 4th January, 1964



UNDER THE BIG TOP!

Circus time is here again—with the fun of the clowns, the thrills of the trapeze, the heart-stopping moments when a lion seems out of control. A CN correspondent visited a rehearsal the other day, and this is what he saw . . .

I RECENTLY looked behind the scenes at a morning practice-session of a famous circus. In the cold light of day the “big top” seemed a very different place.

The ring was cleared, and a big grey horse led in. I didn't notice any orders, but he started to canter round. He never altered his speed, even when his trainers left the ring. He might have kept it up all day.

A twelve-year-old girl ran up a springboard and tried to vault on to the horse's back. It was a long time before she was successful, and even then it was rather a scramble.

But her failures gave me a chance to see how circus folk help one another to learn. Older members of her family were all the time encouraging her, and showing her how it was done.

After this, eight cream-coloured Liberty horses went through their paces. Two carried riders, who wheeled them round with the others and guided them into line as the trainer's whip demanded.

These two were either less experienced than their stable-mates, or had gone “stale” and needed fresh training.

More than anything else I wanted to see the lions, but here I was unlucky. Understandably, their trainers prefer to work when it is quiet. Nevertheless, I learned a lot.

The first thing I wanted to know was: Are the big “cats” really dangerous?

The answer? They are!

A trainer who loses his lions' respect is *certain* to be attacked. And the trainer always goes into the ring first, because a lion already there would try to drive him out.

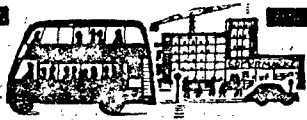
Though a wild animal act may seem to be spontaneous, it is always exactly the same. A difference of inches in the distance between animal and man is enough to turn submission into attack.

Dramatic moment at any circus: everything else stops, and the audience stares breathlessly upwards as the trapeze artists go through their skilled and daring act.

Lions are best at four or five years old. Young ones haven't learned enough, and after this they become unreliable. In fact the older lions are so dangerous that most of them have to be taught a new and safer routine.

When I left, I realised that there is more in circus life than spangles, spotlights and applause. And another thing: I'd always wanted to be a lion-tamer—but now I wasn't so sure!

IN BRITAIN NOW



LEARNING GERMAN IN GERMANY

Anyone taking German in the GCE next summer or later would have a good chance of passing after going on one of the three-week Easter language courses arranged by the Educational Interchange Council.

You go out with a group and stay with a German family where there are boys or girls of about

your own age. Cost of the course is £38.

Another scheme is to have a German scholar staying with you for three weeks in the summer and then you would go to Germany for three weeks with your guest.

More information is obtainable from the Council at (after 1st January) 43 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

OVER-MOUSED

Said a Barnsley RSPCA inspector: "I want the people of this town to know that we deal with everything from mice to elephants."

Soon afterwards a little girl came into his clinic with 18 white mice. She had started with two, but now there were too many for her to cope with.

The inspector was as good as his word. He had started a children's Animal Defenders' league, and the members helped him out. Homes were eventually found for all the mice.

WISE BIRD



Owls are said to be wise old birds, so it's only natural that 12-year-old Jacqueline Copley, of Huntington, York, should have her pet, Jackie, on her shoulder at homework time.

HAPPY HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS

A village covering ten acres is to be built for 125 physically-handicapped or homeless children at Ullenwood, a beauty spot overlooking the Gloucestershire town of Cheltenham.

First of its kind in the country, the village, on the site of a former American camp, will consist of single-story houses set in gardens. Each house will have between 12 and 15 children, who will be cared for by a trained welfare staff. There will also be a school and spaces for playing.

LIGHT CAKE

What can be described as a very light cake has been on show at the Mullard works in Blackburn. It was a two-tier birthday cake, three feet square and weighing 122 lb., and it was decorated with 80 illuminated radio valves.

The cake was made to mark the production of the 500 millionth valve at the works.

THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE HARPS MONSTER

Wales is to have its first harp factory. It is to be set up by the Welsh Harp Society in an old primary school at Llanfair Caereinion, a market town in Montgomeryshire.

The factory should be ready this year and at first will deal with repairs. As staff is built up and apprentices come along, it will turn to making harps. Not since

1920 have harps been manufactured in Britain; most of those now in use date from the beginning of the century.

The Welsh Harp Society hopes that new instruments can be made for between £200 and £500. This compares with £750 for a Russian harp—the cheapest on the market—to the £900 to £2,000 for one from France, Germany, and the United States.

PEDALLING TO DANGER

"It is far more dangerous for an inexperienced, untrained child cyclist to pedal to school than it is for a pilot in the Royal Air Force aerobatic team to go through his paces."

That was said by Prince Philip at a convention on accident prevention and life saving.

Every year about 20,000 people in Britain die as a result of accidents. Admissions to hospital are at least 300,000, and some six million accident cases are treated as outpatients.

SCHOOL BANDS

South Shields Education Committee is spending £3,000 on brass band instruments.

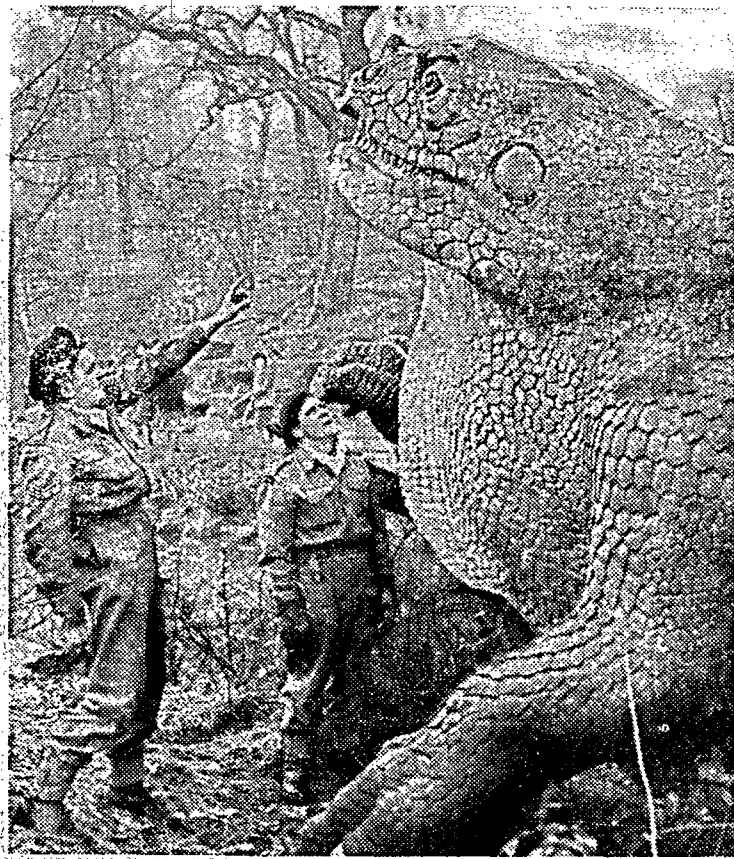
Seventy schoolchildren in the town have formed a band, and their selections range from Beethoven to the Z Cars theme tune. Twenty-six of them, average age 13, have given their first public performance.

The aim is for every school in the district to have its own band.

SWEET ROOT

An extra 20,750 acres will be available this year for the growing of sugar beet.

In announcing this, the British Sugar Corporation said that it could mean an increase of 30,000 to 40,000 tons in home-produced sugar.



It seems to me...

THOSE of you who looked at our Panorama pages last week must have been struck by what an eventful year 1963 was.

It wasn't a particularly happy year, though, and lots of people must have been asking themselves: will 1964 be any better?

Well—it's got off to a good start with the Pope's visit to the Holy Land (see Panorama this week).

The Pope is making a pilgrimage, as so many millions have done before him. He is going to visit the land where Christ was born and lived and taught.

But that land is now split in two—into Israel and Jordan, two countries which are virtually at war with each other. Some of the holy places the Pope will visit are in Israel, and some in Jordan, and between them lies a frontier of minefields and barbed wire.

The Pope is, of course, head of the Roman Catholic church, but his pilgrimage has a significance for all men everywhere. He is going in peace, and with love, to a part of the world which is torn by fear and hatred.

He is pursuing good in the face of evil; and that was the essence of Jesus Christ's own life and teaching.

The Editor

LAUGH TIME

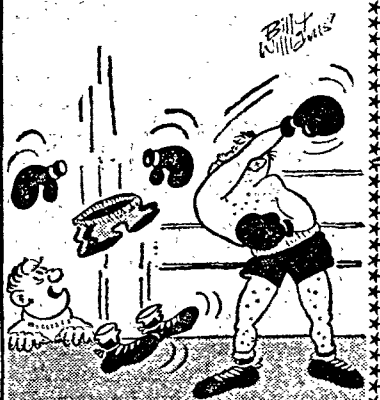
"You know you're not allowed to visit patients at mealtime!"



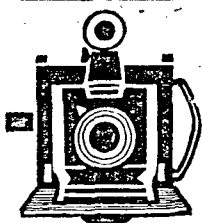
"Aren't you getting a little carried away, Constable?"



"I always feel such a fool when I've only got one left"



"Watch out for that upper-cut next time, Joe"



KNOW YOUR NEWS

UNIVERSITY FOR YOU!

EVERY boy and girl who is able and wants to do so is to have a chance to go to a university; that is the principle underlying a Ten Year Plan for higher education recently announced by the Government.

The plan is prompted by the realisation that we in Britain have to compete with, and if possible surpass, foreign countries in which the achievement of degrees and diplomas is taken much more for granted.

Does this mean that YOU can go to a university? Mustn't you be a "brain" to get there?

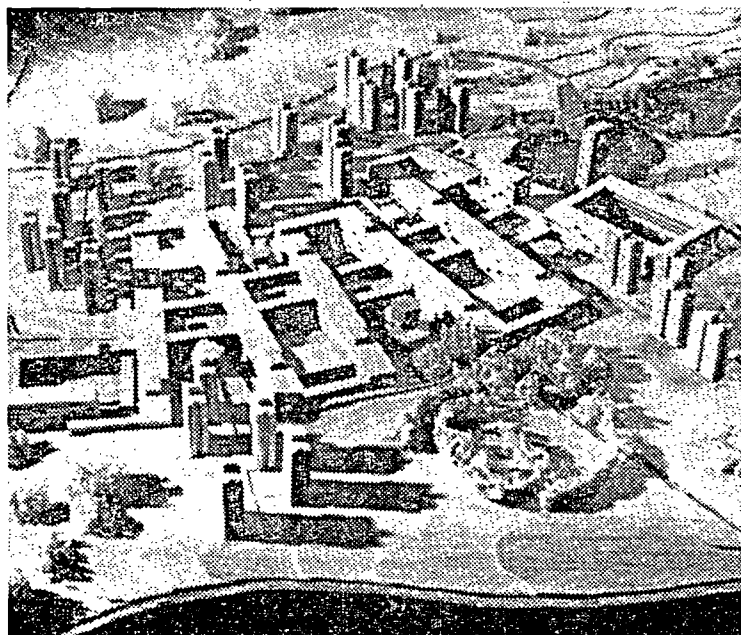
The answer to that is that, if you have the grit and the intelligence, you can get anywhere.

No dream

The brainy ones are almost certain to get there in any case. But under the Plan they will be expected to go *beyond* this stage to still more advanced education.

All this is no dream. It has emerged from the report issued last November by Lord Robbins and a committee of experts.

This committee spent two years studying the future needs of all types of higher education—universities, CATs (Colleges of Advanced Technology) and so on.



A model of the future University of Essex

It advised the Government to provide places for 328,000 full-time students in higher education by 1967, rising to well over half a million places in 1980—when children born in 1964 will have their sights set on getting to a university.

And that university may be one of about sixty new ones which the committee says should be built by then.

In addition, existing universities will have to be enlarged.

And, of course, many more teachers will have to be trained.

The Government's response to this is the Ten Year Plan of "immediate emergency expansion". This does not meet all the requirements of the Robbins Report, but it goes quite a long way towards it.

One of its targets, for example, is the provision of 328,000 places in higher education by 1973-74. (The Robbins Report said this target should be reached by 1967.)

By our Special Correspondent

Britain has only her own brains and hands to feed her growing population (already more than 53 millions) in a competitive world. Nobody else is going to do it for us.

Can we do it? In a recent debate on the Robbins Report, Lord Taylor said the "crisis" in higher education had arisen because today's boys and girls had "done so well at school—better than ever we did"; in other words, because there are now more "brainy" children than there are facilities for further education.

But, Lord Taylor also said, "A university degree is not a passport to an easy life, or to a ride on the back of society."

To which most young people today will reply: "Give us the universities, and we'll get on with the job!"

IN AND OUT

The United Kingdom appears to be becoming a kind of interchange centre for people who want to live in different countries, with Britons going out and overseas people coming in.

The Overseas Migration Board says that in 1962 there were 127,000 Britons who emigrated. Australia, with 43,705 Britons, maintained its place as the most popular country for emigrants. Canada took 15,603, New Zealand 14,254, while 3,962 went to Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Of the 25,000 Britons who went to countries outside the Commonwealth, all but four thousand went to the United States.

But the balance of migration showed that 136,000 more people actually came into the UK than left it.

DREDGERS FOR RUSSIA

Russia has ordered three suction dredgers from a Clydeside shipping firm. Worth £3,000,000, the Soviet order is the first placed with a British shipyard for nine years.

The dredgers are due for delivery in two years' time.

BY ANY OTHER NAME

A chimney sweep at Taunton, Somerset, looked darkly on the name given to his trade. So he calls himself a "Flueologist!"

READERS' LETTERS

THE 'WITCHES' OF DANBURY

Dear Sir,—Recently workmen digging in the garden of the rectory at Danbury, a few miles from Chelmsford, unearthed some bones, an almost complete skull, and parts of two others. These remains are thought to be those of witches.

The front teeth in one skull had been extracted—a ritual which used to be carried out centuries ago when a witch died. The teeth were pulled because it was believed that witches returned to Earth in the form of a hare or cat, and if they did so with the front teeth missing, the animals would soon be recognised as reincarnated witches.

Witches were always buried

in unconsecrated ground, and these bones were found outside the wall of Danbury churchyard.

The history of Danbury church stretches back to times when witches and the black arts flourished in Essex, so it is quite possible that the remains are of witches.

The vicar plans to re-bury the bones and let them rest in peace, after they have been

examined by experts.

Sheila Hammond (14),
Chelmsford.

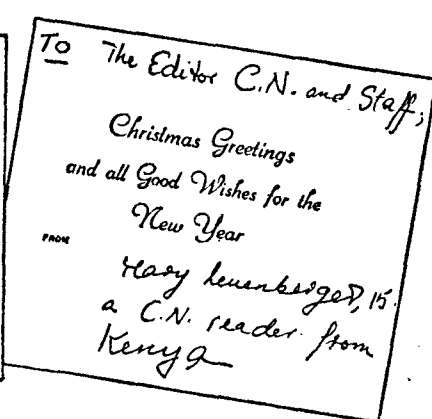
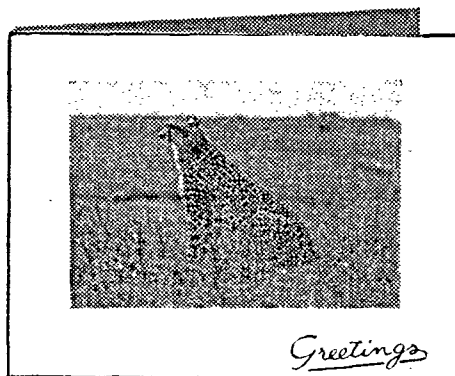
Without more evidence it is impossible to decide about these remains. For example, if the churchyard wall was moved at any time since the burials, the bones could be those of people originally buried in consecrated ground. The exact depth at which the remains were found is most important, too, since this would indicate whether the burials had occurred at a time when "witches" flourished. . . . Local church records might be a great help in sorting things out.

Editor.

GREETINGS FROM KENYA

We were very pleased to receive the attractive card (right) from Mary Leuenberger of Kenya.

We'd like to send Mary our best wishes for a happy future in her faraway country.



100 YEARS ON TINY WHEELS

Dear Sir,—While on holiday in North Wales, I came across a miniature railway at Portmadoc. It is called the Festiniog Railway, and has been running for 100 years.

When we boarded the train at Portmadoc, we sat in a buffet car where we were served with drinks on small tables. We passed several miniature stations, our destination being Tan-y-Bwlch.

Coming home we travelled in an ordinary coach, and the scenery was beautiful.

Alison Phillips,
Burton-on-Trent.

PLEASE DON'T SCREAM!

Dear Sir,—I was pleased to see an article on Pop music in CN issue dated 7th December.

I am a great fan of the Beatles, and this last summer at Llandudno we went to see them on the stage.

It was great fun, but it would have been better if we could have heard what was being sung. Why can't these mad teenagers save their screaming to the end of a number?

I am certainly not a square, but I think this so-called "Beatlemania" is stupid.

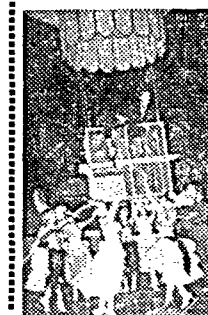
Barbara Mortensen (11),
Gateacre, Liverpool, 25.

Coming Events

LONDON: Exhibition of antique and modern dolls at 36 North Audley St., W.1 (near Selfridges) 3rd-31st January



EVERYWHERE: Twelfth Night, 6th January. Last of the Twelve Days of Christmas (originally each representing one month of the year) and traditional time of merrymaking to mark the end of the Christmas Festival



LONDON: Wembley Pool. Tom Arnold's Around the World in 80 Days on ice, until 14th March.

THIS WIDE WORLD

NOUVELLES DE FRANCE

Un officier de police qui, par hasard, regardait par la fenêtre du commissariat de Besançon, aperçut un individu qui, sur les bords du Doubs, se livrait à une singulière opération: il tirait des objets d'un sac à main, jetait les uns dans la rivière, et emplissait ses poches des autres. Son tri achevé, l'homme jeta le sac vide dans l'eau et s'éloigna.

L'officier de police le retrouva dans un restaurant au moment où il allait se mettre à table—ce qu'il fit d'ailleurs, lorsqu'il fut "invité" à dîner, au commissariat, le contenu de ses poches.

A 10s. 6d. book token will be awarded for what the Editor considers the best translation received by Wednesday, 8th January. Send to: Nouvelles de France, Children's Newspaper, Fleetway House, Farningdon Street, London, E.C.4. 14th December winner: Ada Turner, 4 Coates Hall, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancs.

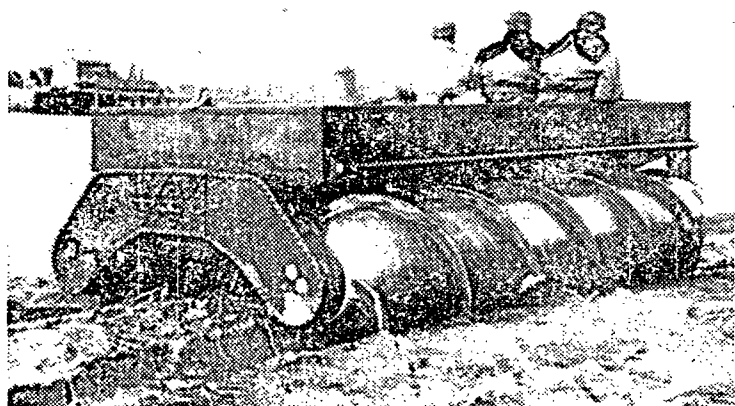
This concludes this series. Results still to come will be announced in due course.

TRAINS IN THE STREET

Main line trains running through a town's shopping centre sounds like a traffic controller's nightmare. But it has been happening at St. Mary's, West Virginia.

The railway company wanted to make its tunnels wider and higher, and looked for an alternative route while the work was being done. Old railway tracks, disused for many years, were still embedded in the streets of St. Mary's, so the railway took them over for six months. Now the improvements are completed, and the townsfolk are glad to get the trains off the streets.

THIS IS THE SWAMP CAR



Built for the United States Defence Department, this strange-looking vehicle screws itself across marshes and other muddy places on the spiral blades of its two revolving pontoons. The blades never get clogged but clean themselves as the vehicle goes along.

THERE ARE TOO MANY HUNGARY BEARS

The zoo in Budapest, capital of Hungary, has too many bears. The five families there have been breeding so well that there are now 36 bears, far too many for the accommodation. And the zoo can't even give away the surplus.

Professor Csaba Anghy, a zoo director, said that a number of bear cubs are needed every year for the children's corner. But the trouble was, little bears grew up!

Bears have been offered to other European zoos and to the State circus, without success. The national forestry management board was asked if it could find a nice sanctuary for them, and the local tourist office was invited to open a bear pit as an added attraction. But nobody was interested.

Now the Professor is hoping that private people will offer to take a bear or two—as pets!

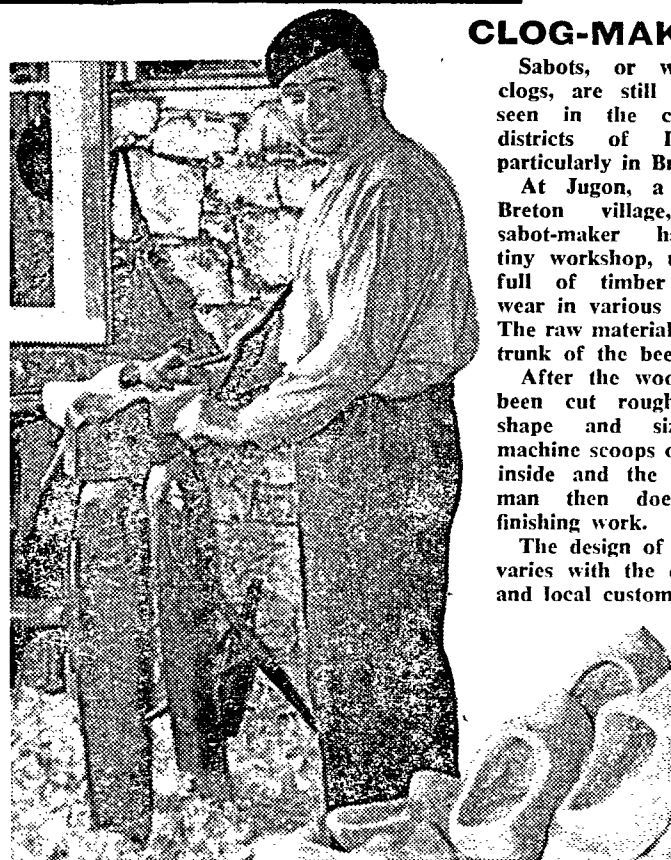
THEY FORGOT TO REMEMBER

A foreign couple holiday-making in the Black Forest went out in their car, got lost—and forgot the name of the village where they were staying.

For two days they drove around trying to describe it to people they met, but the description fitted scores of Black Forest villages. Eventually, the police obligingly searched with them for two more days until, at last, the holiday couple found their way back.

JOIN UP—AND PASS

Senior Aircraftman R. E. Smith, having failed his 11-plus, joined the RAF when he left school, got down to study, and passed six GCE subjects at O level, and two more at A level.



CLOG-MAKER

Sabots, or wooden clogs, are still to be seen in the country districts of France, particularly in Brittany.

At Jugon, a small Breton village, the sabot-maker has a tiny workshop, usually full of timber foot-wear in various stages. The raw material is the trunk of the beech.

After the wood has been cut roughly to shape and size, a machine scoops out the inside and the craftsman then does the finishing work.

The design of sabots varies with the district and local custom.

ORANGES BY THE BILLION

The world eats over 23 billion oranges every year, says the Spanish Fruit Syndicate in London.

There are 97 different kinds of oranges, but only three commercial categories: the sweet, or China orange (which we eat most of the year); the mandarin; and the bitter, or Seville orange for marmalade.

A blood orange gets its colour from the tree being grafted on to a pomegranate.

Marmalade was originally made from quinces, and the Persian name for a quince is Marmelo.

Mandarins were so called because they were grown in China and resembled the big button on the headdress of Chinese mandarins. A tangerine is simply a mandarin grown in Tangiers.

Oranges are good for you: they are full of vitamin C, which helps to resist infections.

CANADA SEES ITS STAMP COLLECTION

The Canadian Post Office has one of the biggest and most valuable stamp collections in the world. It includes examples of every new stamp issued by the member countries of the Universal Postal Union.

The collection contains five thousand album sheets of stamps, and the Post Office is now taking it on a tour of Canada.

ANOTHER wonderful collection is now on show in the Palais des Nations at Geneva, Switzerland. There the United Nations has its newly-opened philatelic museum containing ten thousand stamps and documents, many rare or unique.

TOP OF THE DOGS

A recent inquiry showed that at least 66 French families in every hundred keep a dog, whereas in Britain the figure is 65. The Belgians come next with 64, and then the Italians with 58. Last are the Germans, with only 39.

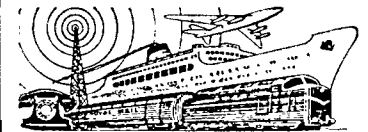
The French keep more cats, too.

SAFER ON THE SCREEN

Carried away by the Western film at a Mexican cinema, a spectator drew his revolver and fired several shots at the Indians on the screen, who were chasing the hero.

The audience ducked and dashed for the exits. The over-excited film-goer was arrested.

BRIEFLY...



Foot bridge

A statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Washington is to have one foot in the British Embassy grounds and the other outside. This is to commemorate Anglo-American friendship, and also Sir Winston's love of his mother's native land, the United States.

The fossil remains of a giant rhinoceros that lived about 30 million years ago have been found in the USSR. The rhinoceros stood over 20 feet high.

Half ahead

Half the £120,000 needed by the Sail Training Association to build a 300-ton sailing ship has been raised. When completed, the vessel will be crewed by about 40 boys aged 15 to 21.

Israel's oldest citizen, a woman aged 115, was born when Abraham Lincoln was first elected to the US House of Representatives (1848).

Wet weather

The American and Australian navies are to co-operate in forecasting underwater "weather"—sea temperatures, changing currents, and other conditions.

Four units for turning sea water into fresh will begin operating at Eilat, Israel's Red Sea port, within the next two months.

Light umbrella

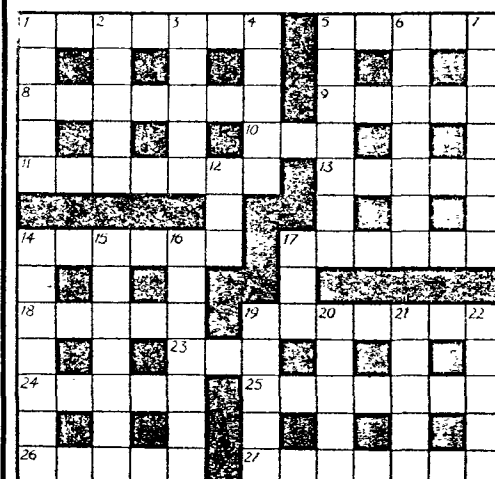
A luminous umbrella has been produced in Japan. Lit by an electric bulb from a portable battery, it is for the use of pedestrians after dark.

Some rare Bald Eagles have been seen in Florida. National symbol of the USA, these magnificent birds are not really bald, but just have a white head.

Cop dog

Once a stray, an Alsatian is now Gloucester's top police dog.

Crossword puzzle



ACROSS: 1 Imaginary line dividing the Earth into hemispheres. 5 Chart. 8 Fermentable sugar. 9 Otherwise known as. 10 Not bright. 11 Rests. 13 Make a speech. 14 Harsh. 17 Avaricious. 18 Fundamental. 19 Boxed. 23 Newt. 24 Attired. 25 Lovable. 26 Old-fashioned horse. 27 Everlasting. DOWN: 1 Composer of the Pomp and Circumstance marches. 2 Seize without right. 3 Instruments. 4 Marshland grasses. 5 Enchantment. 6 Disturb or excite. 7 Stockings. 12 To watch. 14 Outlying districts of a city. 15 Apparent. 16 Retreated. 17 Interval. 19 Platform. 20 In being. 21 Bird. 22 Reside.

Answer on page 12



PEACOCK PROUD

PONIES and Peacocks are the unusual stock on a Buckinghamshire farm owned by nine-year-old Linda Larcombe's grandmother. Peacock feathers are in great demand by theatrical costumiers, especially during the pantomime season.

The beautiful multi-coloured-eyed feathers are not the peacock's tail but his train, which he proudly spreads for the admiration of the hen birds.



Linda with an armful of peacock feathers

SPECIALLY FOR GIRLS

MAKING A START



SINCE we are on the subject of farm life, here's a girl who is making a career for herself.

The picture above shows 19-year-old Nigella Youngs feeding beef cattle on her father's farm near Aldeburgh in Suffolk.

Nigella has started dairy farming with her own stock, of which she already has three Jersey cows, two heifers, five Friesian cows and two Herefords.

That's a pretty good beginning for Nigella, who hopes to farm land of her own one day.

WAR ON WANT

SERVICE for others seems to be the motto for the girls of Bebington School, Cheshire, who have been helping old folk and working on social service projects at World Friendship House, Liverpool. And that's not all—by organising dances, cleaning cars and holding barbecues and a Gang Show, they have raised £106 towards a War on Want scheme to help 400 destitute Indian villages. Some of the money has already bought a bullock and

cart, and now they are buying sheep for the villagers. The girls are also busy raising a further £25 to help pay for training a worker in a trade. Again, on the "home front" several girls have adopted Darby and Joan couples and others have delighted a handicapped girl with their friendly letters. Well done, girls. It's a magnificent job you're doing.

DON'T THROW IT—GROW IT!

HAVE you ever tried to grow your own mistletoe? Imagine the thrill of seeing it gradually take hold during the coming year so that you're able to pick at least one tiny spray by next Christmas!

Well, it can be done, so when you take down the decorations in a few days time, take a careful look at the mistletoe before you throw it away. Pick off only the yellowish-white berries—these contain the fertile seed while the green ones are useless—and be sure not to break the skins at this stage. Half-fill a tin box with sand, put in your berries, and then firmly put on the lid.

Now bury the box in the garden (not forgetting to mark the spot so that you can find it again in the spring!) March is the time to dig up the box and take out the berries, which will now be ripe.

Make a small cut in the bark of an apple or hawthorn tree

underneath a bough. Press the berries into the cut and try to cover it over again with the bark. Assuming that the berries "take," you should see your mistletoe sprouting well in October and November.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A VERY Happy New Year everybody—and good luck with your shiny bright resolutions!

Vicky

LOOKING AT THE SKY

By Patrick Moore

GODS AND GODDESSES

The constellations were named in very ancient times, and we still use the 48 groups listed by Ptolemy, the last great astronomer of the Classical period, who died about AD 180.

Some of the constellations are named after ancient Greek gods and heroes, while others indicate animals and birds. Thus we have Orion (the Hunter) and Hercules (the Hero). Cassiopeia (a queen of Ethiopia) is supposed to be represented as seated on her throne. Then there are the Lion, the Great Bear and the Swan.

Some of the more recently-identified constellations have modern names, such as the Telescope and the Microscope, but most of these are so hard to see that they hardly merit recognition as separate groups.

New Year Chance

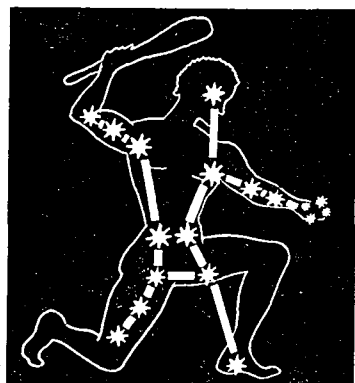
Though few of the constellations form patterns which resemble the objects after which they are named, the fascination is still there, and around the start of the New Year we are in an excellent position to take a careful look at Orion and his retinue of attendants and beasts.

Orion, of course, is easy to find. With his Belt, his misty Sword, and his two brilliant leaders, Betelgeuse and Rigel, he is very prominent indeed,

dominating the southern sky after sunset.

To make the figure of a man out of the Orion pattern needs some imagination, but there are many legends associated with him.

The most famous story is that Orion boasted that he could kill any creature he chose. The



The 18 stars in the constellation of Hercules

goddess Juno, who was jealous of him, decided to teach him a lesson. So she caused a giant scorpion to appear, biting Orion in the foot and killing him. After

this, Orion was placed in the sky, directly opposite to the Scorpion (Scorpio).

Scorpio is a summer constellation, recognisable mainly because of the bright red star Antares. But the Scorpion and the Hunter can never be seen at the same moment, since by the time Orion rises, Scorpio has already set.

Orion is attended by his two dogs, Canis Major (the Great Dog) and Canis Minor (the Little Dog). The larger dog is marked by Sirius, and the smaller by Procyon. Sirius is particularly easy to identify, because it is so brilliant.

Castor and Pollux, the Heavenly Twins

Lepus, the Hare, lies close below Orion, and the legends tell us that Orion himself was very fond of hunting hares. Not far off is Taurus, the Bull, marked by the brilliant red Aldebaran.

From Orion, too, we can find the Heavenly Twins, Castor and Pollux, who are represented by two bright stars unusually close together. In the old story, Pollux was immortal, while his brother Castor was not. When Castor was killed, Pollux was so heartbroken that he pleaded to be allowed to



A statue of Hercules, club in hand, with the Universe on his shoulders

share his immortality with his brother. Jupiter, king of the gods, agreed, and transferred both youths to the sky.

The constellation Auriga,

known alternatively as the Charioteer and the Wagoner, contains the brilliant yellow star Capella, which lies practically overhead during winter evenings.

Son of Vulcan

In mythology, Auriga represents Erichthonius, who was the son of Vulcan, blacksmith of the gods. Erichthonius was born crippled, and so was turned out of Olympus, the place where the gods lived. The goddess Minerva, noted for her wisdom, took pity on the boy, and brought him up. Eventually he became king of Athens, and invented the four-horse chariot, for which he was rewarded by being placed in the sky.

It is sometimes claimed that the constellation patterns are muddled and inconvenient, so that they should be revised. Several attempts at re-naming them have been made. Yet to forget the old legends would be a great pity. We know that they are stories and nothing more, but they are always worth telling.

DISASTER—TEN MILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY!

THE most extraordinary spectacle that the universe can offer, the explosion in the heart of a nebula, has just been photographed for the first time with the telescope at Mount Palomar, California. The galaxy M.82, in the Great Bear, ten million light years away, had already attracted

astronomers' attention by the immense clouds of dust whirling about in the middle of its myriads of stars, and it was suspected that some cosmic disaster was about to happen.

The explosion in the heart of the M.82 galaxy is equivalent to the explosion of a million stars.

TAKE A LOOK AT NATURE



WEIRD BELIEFS ABOUT ANIMALS

It is amusing to think about the weird tales that are so often told about animals and their ways, and to consider whether there is any truth in some of them.

Let us start with the snakes, for these unfortunate reptiles are the subject of many legends. The most persistent of all is that venomous snakes *sting*. I am sure you know that this is rubbish, but do you realise that this belief arose because of a snake's habit of flickering its forked tongue in and out? Far from being any kind of sting, the tongues of snakes are soft and delicate and are, in fact, organs of scent without which they could not select their prey, nor follow a trail, nor recognise a prospective mate.

Another snake-story is that they can rob cows of their milk! Next time you go to a museum, have a look at a snake's skull and observe the sharp, backward-curved teeth. Can you imagine a sleeping cow allowing itself to be milked without getting to its feet and probably stamping the serpent to death? No snake is

constructed for sucking, anyway! A very old belief is that elephants live in constant fear that mice may run up their trunks. Now, an elephant's trunk is a very elongated nose, and a very delicate one at that. If a mouse did, by any chance, try to enter the trunk,



Puff adder. Like all snakes, it has an unfortunate reputation

the sensitive nerves in the lining would probably cause what in us would be a sneeze—and out would go the mouse!

Will tortoises clear your kitchens or cellars of cock-

roaches? I can well remember hearing this said by ignorant (or dishonest) sellers years and years ago. I suppose that in those days hundreds of tortoises starved to death because silly people believed this. There are certain tortoises which eat a little animal food, but they are not the kinds that are sold in this country. The ones we keep as pets are vegetarian, and would not take any notice of a cockroach.

Here is one about birds to finish up with: do vultures find

by
Maxwell Knight

their food by smelling it? No—they don't! Few birds have any great sense of smell, but they probably have the keenest eyesight of any creatures.

Vultures, flying high up in the sky, can spot a carcass on the ground with ease. The fact that several may arrive, apparently at the same moment, is because one may be the first to detect the body, but the others follow so quickly that it seems as if they have all been alerted at once.

Vast areas of the sky in hot countries are patrolled by these big birds.



HOW WE RUN OUR COUNTRY

THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION

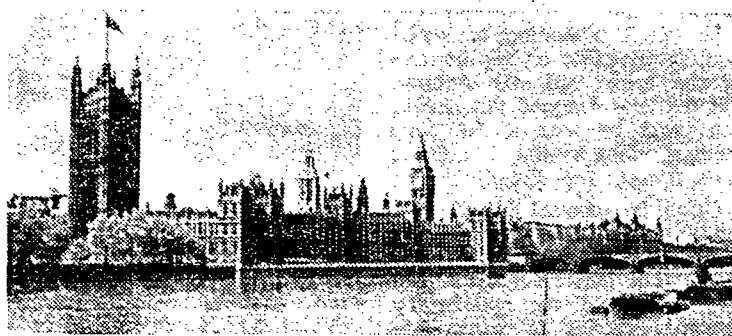
This year we are going to have a General Election. We are going to choose another Government. This happens from time to time, usually whenever the Prime Minister wishes. However, a new Government *must* be chosen when the previous one has been in office for five years. Therefore, as we last chose our Government in 1959 we *must* choose another one in 1964. Because of this we are going to talk about the Government of our country in this little series so that we can understand the Election better.

We have called this week's piece "The British Constitution." In politics a Constitution is the set of rules about the way in which a country is to be governed.

Rules for governing

The British Constitution is the set of rules about the way in which Britain is governed. We said just now that we must have a General Election when a Government has been in office for five years. Who says so? The answer is that the British Constitution says so.

There are, however, one or two special points about our Constitution. In most countries of the



The Houses of Parliament, focal point of the British Constitution

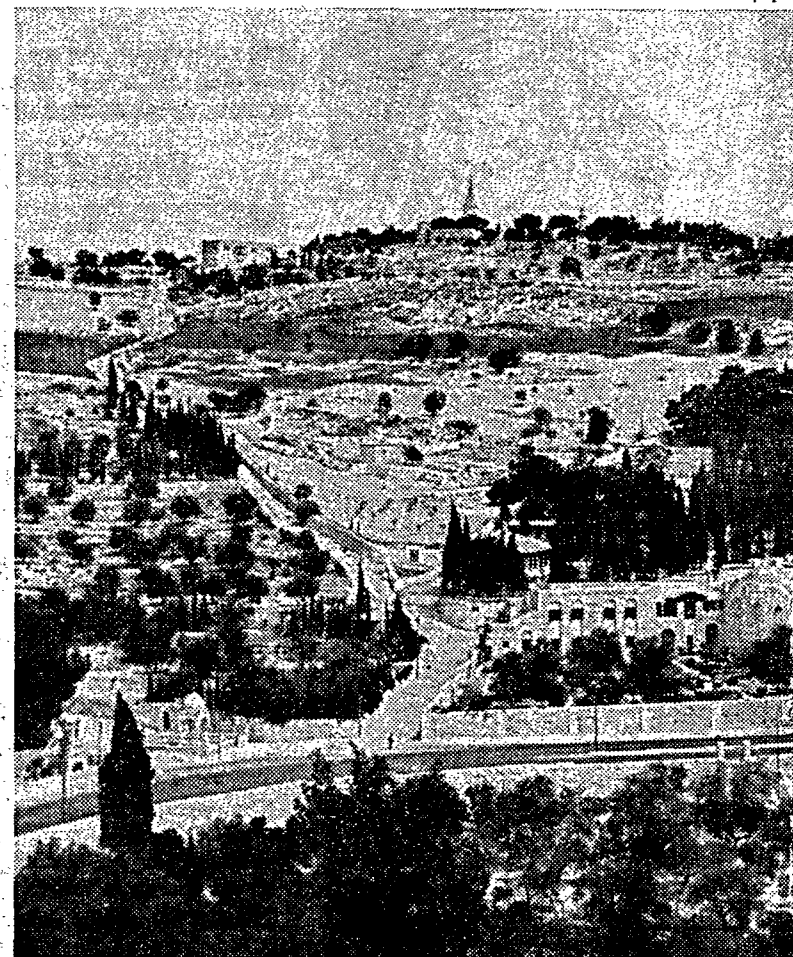
world you could walk into a shop and buy a copy of that country's constitution. But you cannot do it here. This country has no single document of this kind containing the British Constitution written out in full.

How, then, do we know the rules about the way in which the country is to be governed? The truth is that some of the Constitution is written down and some is not. Some is in the form of laws—Acts of Parliament—and some is just tradition. There are many Acts of Parliament with parts of the British Constitution in them—Magna Carta (1215), for instance. It is all rather like the game

of cricket. We all know the way the game is played—some of this is written down in the rules; for example, that each side has eleven players. Some is just tradition—for example, that the players wear white flannels, white shirts and white boots.

So, when we talk about government in the next few weeks, we shall sometimes be talking about things written in the laws, and sometimes about traditions. Together they make up the British Constitution.

Next Week:
PARLIAMENT



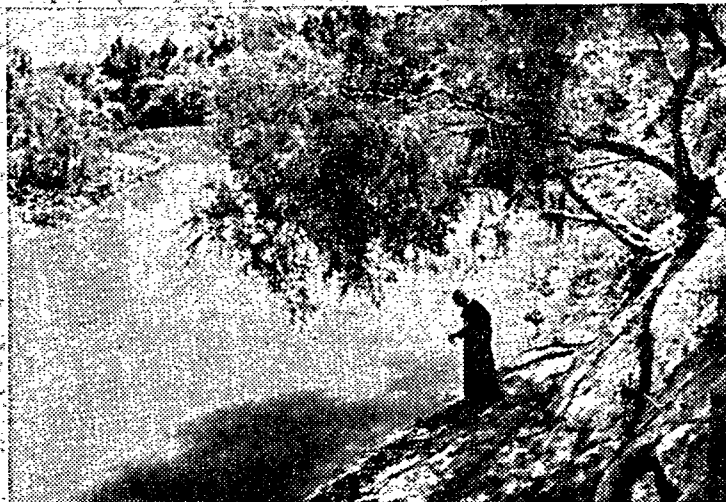
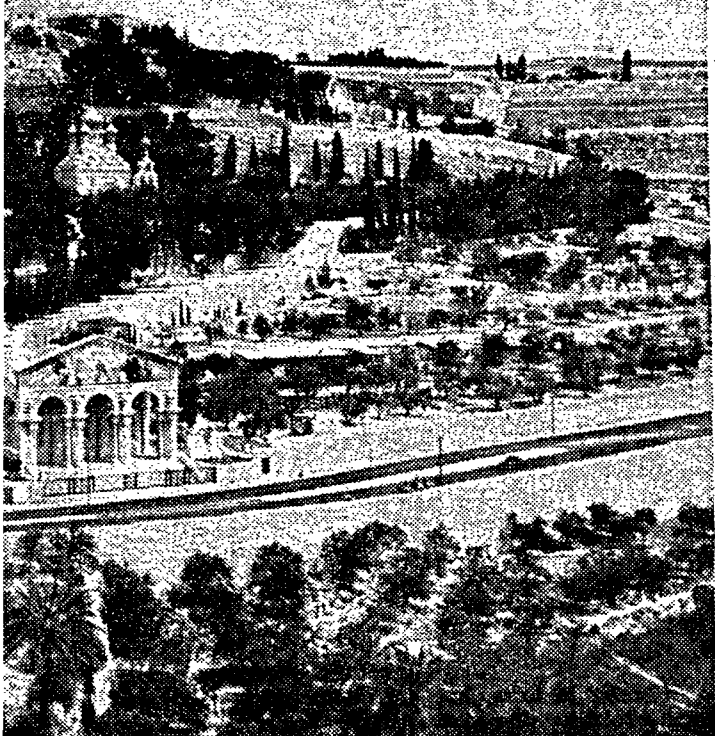
Mount of Olives and "a place which was named Gethsemane"

Reputed scene, near Jericho, of the Temptation in the Wilderness



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THE POPE'S PILGRIMAGE

A map of Israel and surrounding regions. The map shows the Mediterranean Sea to the west, the Jordan River to the east, and the Dead Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Haifa, Nazareth, Beithsaida, Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Beersheva. The Jordan River and Sea of Galilee are also shown. The map is labeled with 'SYRIA' to the north, 'JORDAN' to the east, and 'ISRAEL' in the center. The 'Dead Sea' is labeled at the bottom right. The 'Sea of Galilee' is labeled near Nazareth. The 'Jordan R.' is labeled along the river. The 'Mediterranean Sea' is labeled on the left. The 'Tel Aviv (Joppa)' is labeled near Jaffa. The 'Jerusalem' is labeled in the center. The 'Bethlehem' is labeled south of Jerusalem. The 'Beersheva' is labeled at the bottom. The 'Haifa' is labeled on the coast. The 'Nazareth' is labeled inland. The 'Beithsaida' is labeled near the Sea of Galilee. The 'Israel' is labeled in the center. The 'Jordan' is labeled to the east. The 'Syria' is labeled to the north. The 'Dead Sea' is labeled at the bottom right. The 'Sea of Galilee' is labeled near Nazareth. The 'Jordan R.' is labeled along the river. The 'Mediterranean Sea' is labeled on the left. The 'Tel Aviv (Joppa)' is labeled near Jaffa. The 'Jerusalem' is labeled in the center. The 'Bethlehem' is labeled south of Jerusalem. The 'Beersheva' is labeled at the bottom. The 'Haifa' is labeled on the coast. The 'Nazareth' is labeled inland. The 'Beithsaida' is labeled near the Sea of Galilee.

A black and white photograph showing a large, gnarled tree trunk in the foreground, partially obscuring the view. In the background, a city with a prominent dome is visible across a body of water. The image has a grainy, high-contrast quality.

A black and white photograph showing a person from the side, wearing a dark, patterned garment and a light-colored headscarf. They are leaning over a large, ornate, circular object, possibly a traditional oven or a large pot, which is covered with a patterned cloth. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from above, creating a dramatic effect. The background shows wooden paneling and some small, glowing lights.

Mount of The Beatitudes, beside the Sea of Galilee

CAVES AND HAMMOCKS

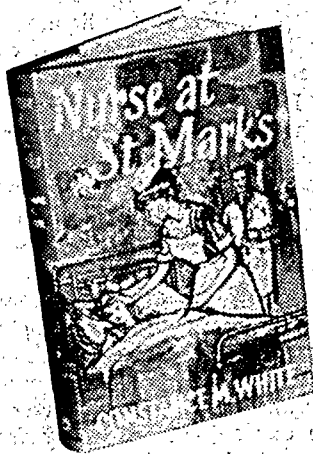
I'd like to go again!

JANUARY BOOKSHELF

FICTION

A FAT paperback with a good story is **TAME THE WHITE STALLION**, by J. R. Williams (Sapling, 5s.). Texas mustangs on the Mexican border 100 years ago.

THE MARY CELESTE, by J. G. Lockhart (Hart-Davis, 6s.) records the most famous high-seas mystery of all time, and various other ocean puzzles.



IN another fine book, **NURSE AT ST. MARK'S**, Constance M. White tells us more of the story of Joanna Bradley, now a third-year nurse (Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.).

THE LONELY ONE, by Cecil and Celia Manson (Epworth, 12s. 6d.) is all about Bill Campion, a New Zealand boy of a century ago with a remarkable skill in handling horses.

I CAN recommend **THE WATCHERS**, by Charlotte Morrow (Hutchinson, 15s.), an adventurous novel set on the East Coast with a mysterious tide-mill and a strange character called Heron-Legs.

CANAL life in Ireland doesn't often get dealt with in fiction, but it does—and very refreshingly—in **MYSTERIOUS WATERWAY**, by Helen O'Clery (Allen Figgis, 10s. 6d.). The waterway in this case is the one joining Dublin to the Shannon Lakes, and, though apparently quiet enough, things start happening.

LASTLY there's a gay little book for the younger reader, choicely illustrated, called **AMELIA MUDDLE**, by Jean Chapman (Angus and Robertson, 12s. 6d.). Amelia has lots of adventures, including one in a police station and another in a goods-lift. One way and another, she's quite a character.

FACT

A COUPLE of good-value books about true adventure with animals have come my way this month, both from Rupert Hart-Davis. **LEOPARDS IN THE NIGHT**, by Guy Muldoon, is a series of dangerous close-ups with leopard, elephant, lion and hippo in Nyasaland. The author was a Game Control Officer. Luckily for him he was a good shot! Luckily for us he is a good writer, too. The other book is a most attractive account of the adventures of Gerald Durrell in collecting all sorts of West African animals for a zoo he has started in Jersey. It's called **A ZOO IN MY LUGGAGE**. Each book costs a modest 6s.



ONE book I'm including this time because of its superb coloured pictures is frankly for the specialist. But, printed in Czechoslovakia, it offers marvellous value for a very modest price. It's **BEAUTIFUL BUTTER-**

FLIES, by J. Moucha (Spring Books, 12s. 6d.). The 56 colour plates have to be seen to be believed.

ANOTHER good one about animals, the biggest of all, is Fred Reinfield's **WHALES AND WHALING** (Dobson, 10s. 6d.). It tells all about whales, how they used to be hunted, dangerously, in open boats, and how they are dealt with nowadays.

NOW two books about doctoring and acting—not *how* you do these things, but about the lives doctors and actors lead: lots of first-rate reading, and both published by Chatto at 10s. 6d. One is called **DOCTORS DOCTORS**, and the other **ACTING ACTING ACTING**, and the stories inside are by famous writers.

EVERY now and then CN gets a request for a book about jobs with animals. Well, Lutterworth Press have supplied the answer with **A CAREER WITH ANIMALS**, by Stewart Macmillan and Edmund Fox (12s. 6d.). Circus, petshop, zoo, work with dogs and horses and with Animal Welfare Societies, are all described.

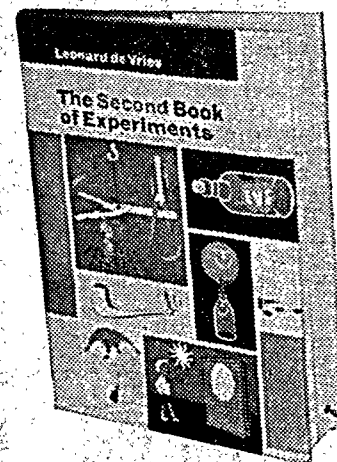
HISTORY is boring to some, but fascinating to those who have begun to understand what it says. Most of us are a bit vague about the Roman occupation of Britain (400 years of it!). So we might get **THE STORY OF ROMAN BRITAIN**, by D. R. Barker

The Children's Newspaper, 4th January, 1964

(Edward Arnold, 12s. 6d.)—a good account, with good pictures.

THEN two Wyvern Quiz Books at 3s. 6d.—**GAME WORDS** (sports) by Fred Barber, and **HOW'S YOUR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**, by Philip E. Bath. They make you wiser after ten minutes!

IF you like simple experiments ingeniously planned, then get someone to make you a present of Leonard de Vries's **THE SECOND BOOK OF EXPERIMENTS** (John Murray, 15s.). Each experiment is preceded by a



short list of what you want for it e.g. "One plain chair with an upright back: yourself." And what this proves is "The simple act of sitting down and getting up again involves the teamwork of muscles and forces of a complexity unequalled in the realm of technology." A. I.



GUINEA-PIGS

THE guinea-pig is descended from a South American rodent which was probably first domesticated by the Incas of Peru centuries ago.

Today it is found in three varieties: smooth-coated, Peruvian, and Abyssinian, and in a dozen or more colours, including white, tortoiseshell and lilac.

A hutch designed for a rabbit will suit guinea-pigs equally well if it is made proof against the weather and draught, has enclosed sleeping quarters, and a spacious run for exercise. Many people keep their guinea-pigs in a run on

by

Katharine Tottenham

the lawn, and this is a good idea in the summer, but is likely to be too cold and damp during the rest of the year. For although these little animals are very hardy, they will develop chills if kept in damp and draughty conditions.

Rabbits are generally kept

PETS CORNER



Guinea-pigs thrive best in a group

singly as they tend to be quarrelsome, but guinea-pigs thrive best in a group, which can consist of either two or three females, if you don't want them to breed, or a male and two females, if you can manage about six litters of young ones a year.

Again, unlike rabbits, baby guinea-pigs are born fully furred and with their eyes open, and almost from the first can run

about and pick up food for themselves. However, they should be left in a family group for about two months, as they need their mother's care until then.

Guinea-pigs eat the same foods as pet rabbits, and most pet stores sell a specially prepared cereal mixture. It should be given in a clean dish fresh every day. In addition, hay should be given, (both to eat and as bedding over

a layer of sawdust); so should vegetables such as carrots, cabbages and swedes. And don't forget drinking water.

Most small livestock shows, where rabbits and pigeons are exhibited, also include classes for guinea-pigs, and usually have a junior section.

Fanciers know guinea-pigs by their proper zoological name—cavy—and breed them for special points. This makes an interesting hobby for anyone who likes caring for animals.

And competing at a show, whether you win or lose, is great fun.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

● Barbara Cory, of Brentwood, Essex, found a very small baby hedgehog a little while ago and asks how she should look after it.

A young hedgehog will live quite happily in a cage (like a rabbit hutch) for the winter, if it is provided with plenty of dry bedding and earth, instead of sawdust, as a floor covering.

Although these animals show a great liking for bread and milk this is not good for them, as they really need a meaty diet and a little fruit. The meat may be chopped raw butcher's meat, chicken giblets or rabbit. A raw egg is appreciated and so are mealworms which are obtainable from pet shops.

Hedgehogs also like honey, and an occasional slice of apple or other fruit. Water is the best drink.

ROYAL MINT COINING MORE MONEY

In 1962 the Royal Mint struck more United Kingdom coins than ever before—492,339,374 of them. That total included the record number of 137,600,000 pennies.

These figures are from the annual report, which also shows that 270,156,974 cupro-nickel coins (half-crowns, florins, shillings, and sixpences), 47,241,600 nickel-brass threepennypieces, and 37,300,800 halfpennies were struck. In addition, there were 4,646 Maundy coins with a value of £46.

The Mint also struck more than 282 million coins for other countries. In all, there were 87 different denominations for 24 Commonwealth and foreign countries.

BUILDING AN ATOMIC SUBMARINE

The recently-launched HMS *Valiant* is the first all-British-built atomic submarine.

Hundreds of draughtsmen, engineers, and experts all over the country have contributed towards the production of this highly-complicated vessel. To plan the accurate fitting of machinery and piping, full-scale wooden models of the ship were built beside the Assembly Shop at the Vickers-Armstrong's shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness.

Disaster from an unknown source had hit the Greeks. Achilles, bravest of warriors, called on Chalcas the prophet to find the cause. He told them the God Apollo was angry because Agamemnon refused to return Chryseis, a slave, to her father, Apollo's priest.

THE ILIAD

Part 2

1. Their troubles, Chalcas told the assembled warriors, would continue while Apollo remained angry with Agamemnon. Since it was impossible to fight a god, their one hope of avoiding future disasters lay in doing as Apollo wished—namely, returning Chryseis to her father and offering sacrifice to the gods.

Achilles agreed with the prophet. He told Agamemnon: "You'll lose a slave, but Jove will let you win Troy."

In sudden anger, Agamemnon struck Achilles. He shouted: "If you force me to give the girl back against my will, I'll take another slave. Your slave, Briseis!"

Agamemnon's insulting blow and angry words enraged Achilles. Vengefully his hand flew at once to the hilt of his sword...



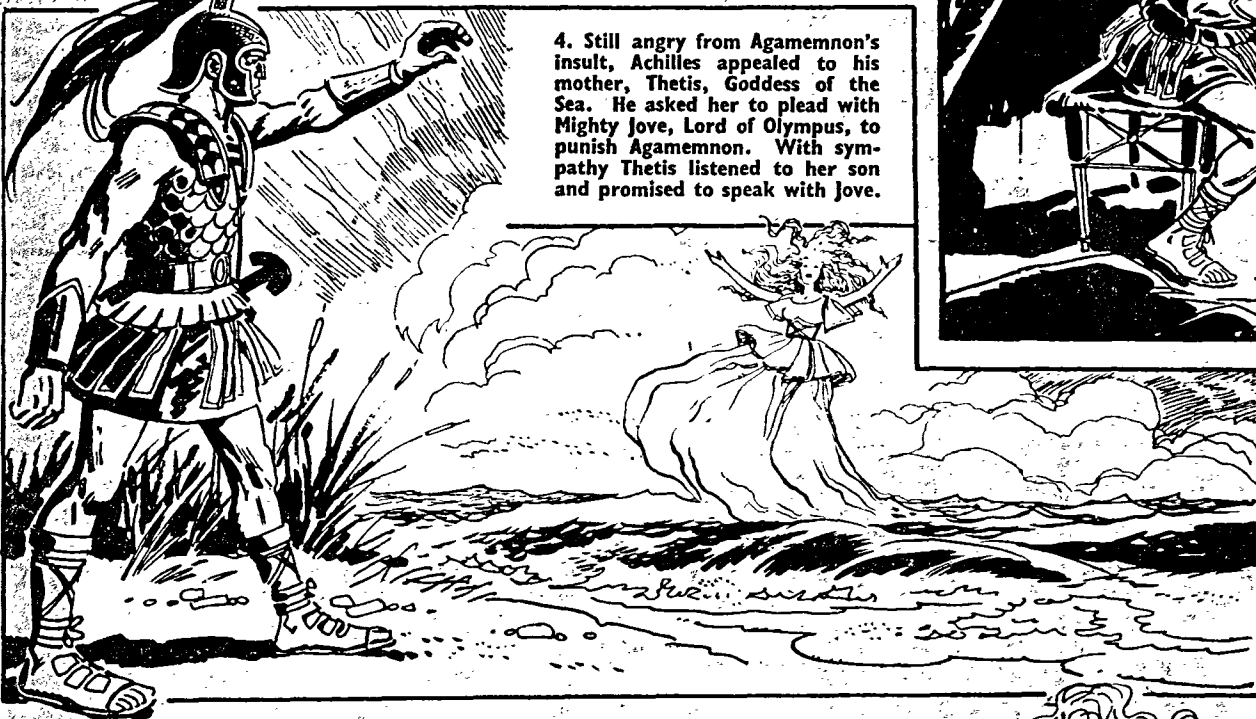
2. In striking Achilles, the greatest of his warriors, Agamemnon had been guilty of the worst possible insult, one which could only be wiped out by the sword in a fight to the death.

But just as Achilles, sword unsheathed, stepped forward to attack Agamemnon, the unseen Goddess of Wisdom, Minerva, stayed his hand. She held him in check, well aware of the dreadful consequences. She knew that if Agamemnon were to die, the Greeks would give up their war with the Trojans to avenge the abduction of their king's wife, Helen. It was a just and an honourable cause for which they fought. Minerva wanted to save the Greeks from dishonour and defeat, which she knew would result if their leader, Agamemnon, were to be killed in a private fight with Achilles.

3. Achilles retired and sulked in his tent, determined to take no further part in the Trojan War. Meanwhile, Ulysses, a wise warrior, took Chryseis back to her father, with sacrifices to Apollo. Two heralds took away Achilles's slave, Briseis, from his tent.



4. Still angry from Agamemnon's insult, Achilles appealed to his mother, Thetis, Goddess of the Sea. He asked her to plead with Mighty Jove, Lord of Olympus, to punish Agamemnon. With sympathy Thetis listened to her son and promised to speak with Jove.



5. Chryseis's father, happy to have his daughter back, offered up the sacrifices to Apollo which Ulysses had given him, and implored the God to cease being angry with the Greeks. Apollo granted his priest's prayer. Meanwhile, Achilles's dearest friend, Patroclus, tried to get Achilles to change his mind about not fighting any more—but without success. Agamemnon's offence still caused the great warrior much anger and bitterness of heart. Until sufficient amends had been made, he would not fight again.

6. Thetis kept her word and went to Mount Olympus to beg Jove, the Father of the Gods, to avenge the wrong done to her son by Agamemnon. She suggested that, as fit punishment for the insult and ingratitude shown to Achilles, Jove should give the Trojans victory over the Greeks.

But Jove (remembering that his wife, the goddess Juno, protected the Greeks and hated the Trojans) was forced to turn down Thetis's idea. Although he sympathised with her son's grievances, he didn't dare risk upsetting his wife. So Thetis was unsuccessful in helping her son after all. Vengeance for Achilles was left in the hands of Fate.



10

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WORLD OF STAMPS

OFFICIAL USE ONLY!

BRITISH stamps which it was at one time illegal to have in one's collection have recently been sold at a London auction. They are the "Official" stamps, once used by several Government departments on certain correspondence.

Official stamps were first issued in 1882 for the Inland Revenue Department. They were the ordinary stamps with Queen Victoria's portrait, but overprinted "I. R. Official." Similar stamps were later issued for other departments, including the Admiralty, Office of Works, and Board of Education (now Ministry of Education). These official stamps were not sold unused to the public and anyone possessing mint specimens was liable to a heavy fine or even imprisonment. In spite of this, some did make their way into collectors' albums, though usually in very small quantities.

Used specimens, of course, were much easier to obtain, for once they had passed through the post, they belonged to the people on whose mail they had been used.

Pictured here is a 1s. stamp of



King Edward VII overprinted "Board of Education." This was once in the collection of the Earl of Crawford, a famous philatelist of 60 years ago. It has just been auctioned by Messrs. Robson Lowe, Ltd., of Pall Mall, London, for £1,400.

These official stamps were discontinued in 1904 and now Government correspondence is franked by the black "Crown in a circle" printed on the envelopes or on adhesive labels. These are never likely to be as rare as the first official stamps!

The 3d. stamp pictured here is the special issue, which has

been sold at post offices in the Isle of Man during the last five years. Many collectors consider it to be the most attractive of regional issues.

The Isle of Man authorities have now asked for a 21d. stamp in a similar



by
C. W. Hill

design so that visitors will be able to use it on picture postcards from the island. The new stamps will be issued later this year.

Perhaps Jersey and Guernsey, which have their own 3d. stamps, will also be asking for 21d. issues.

This attractive new stamp has been issued in Korea to mark the tenth anniversary of the Korean National Tuberculosis Association.

A 4-won value in orange and dark blue, it shows a Korean nurse with a mobile X-ray unit in the background.

Nurses have often been honoured on stamp issues, but it is only quite recently that another useful profession for girls has been featured on stamps—the women police.

A SERIES of stamps from the East African country of Somalia includes three showing members of the Somali Women's Auxiliary Police Force. Pictured here is the 5-centesimi value.



PICK A PUZZLE

DO YOU KNOW?

What is the name given to the day before Good Friday? Why is it so called, and what happens then?

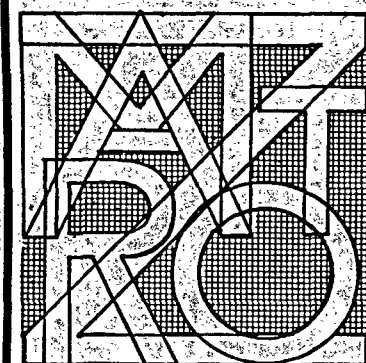
Who invented the first self-acting steam engine?

Where are drachmas used as currency?

What are quarto, crown, and foolscap?

When did the first Pilgrim Father land in America?

OUTLINE NAME



The letters in the name of an Austrian composer are here given in outline. Clue: He wrote three great symphonies in six weeks.

INSTRUMENTS PLEASE!

Begin at the top line and work downwards, taking one letter from each line to form the names of four well-known musical instruments.

C B P T
I Y R A
U S C M
S C B M
O P O A
E L L O
T O N S

THREE FROM ONE

Can you re-arrange the letters in the word below to form: a six-letter word meaning noiseless; a four-letter word meaning a manner of walking; and a four-letter word for an African river?

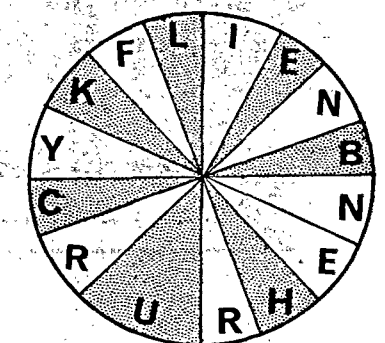
INTELLIGENTSIA
And—what does intelligentsia mean?

ODD ONE OUT

One of the cities below is out of place among its companions. Which—and why?

Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, Valencia, Seville.

CIRCLE CLASSIC



The letters in the circle will, when taken alternately, spell the name of a famous novel by Mark Twain.

COMPLETE THE PROVERBS

One word is needed in each of the spaces below to complete a well-known proverb.

He who is lost.
Many hands make work.

Well is half done.
Fine make fine birds.

No news is news.

Answers to Puzzles are on page 12

C N fiction

Captain Swain had brought the *Lady Wilma* into San Francisco ahead of his rival—the *Sea Raven*—after an exciting five months' trip. Now, 15,000 sea-miles away from home, Master Jack Flagg, and his partner, Praiseworthy, prepare to step ashore on the last stage of their journey to the goldfields, where Jack intends making a fortune for his Aunt Arabella back in Boston...

5. Free Haircuts

IN his pea jacket and stocking cap, Jack felt fourteen years old at least. Maybe fifteen. He stood in the bow of the whale boat and watched the Long Wharf come closer.

They bumped against the boat-stairs and Jack was the first out. His heart raced with the excitement of the moment. They had arrived, and he was ready to start digging.

"Not so fast, Master Jack," said Praiseworthy. "Don't forget your pick and shovel."

"And don't start diggin' up the streets," laughed Mountain Jim. "Folks might not appreciate it."

A hilltop telegraph had signalled the arrival of the side-wheeler, and now it seemed as if all of San Francisco had turned out. The wharf was alive with men, women, children and animals.

Weighted down with their belongings, Praiseworthy and Jack started along the wharf. There were barrels and boxes piled everywhere. Peddlers and hawkers shouted at the newcomers: "Horn spoons! You'll need 'em at the diggin's. Carved from genuine ox horn!"

It seemed the noisiest place on earth to Jack as they continued along the boardwalk, which was hammered together mostly out of barrel staves.

They reached the United States Hotel, which Captain Swain had recommended. While Praiseworthy spoke to the hotel clerk, Jack gazed at a bearded miner pacing back and forth across the lobby floor. He wore a floppy hat, and chestnut hair tumbled out on all sides, like mattress-stuffing coming loose.

The miner kept glancing at the loud wall clock, as if every advancing second might be his last. Jack couldn't take his eyes off the man. Tucked in his wide leather belt were a revolver, a horn spoon and a soft buckskin bag.

Gold dust! Jack thought. He must have just got in from the mines!

"Ruination!" the miner began to mutter. "Ruination!"

PRISEWORTHY blotted the register.

"How," he asked the clerk, "does one get to the mines?"

"Riverboat leaves every afternoon at four o'clock from the Long Wharf. Fare to Sacramento City is twenty-five dollars. From there you make your way to the diggings by stage, muleback or foot."

Jack shot a glance at Praiseworthy. Twenty-five dollars—each! Why, they didn't have that much money!

But the butler didn't so much as raise an eyebrow.

"We'll be taking the boat tomorrow," he told the clerk.

"Ruination!" said the miner.

"Come along, Master Jack," said Praiseworthy.

"Fifty dollars just to get to Sacramento City!" said Jack as they went up to their room. "We'll have to walk."

"Good exercise, no doubt, but we haven't time for it," Praiseworthy gazed out at the distant hills across the bay. Sacramento City was more than a hundred miles up-river, he had heard, and

the diggings in the foothills beyond that. "Let me see. It took us five months to get this far, and it will take us another five months to get home. If we are to keep your Aunt Arabella from being sold out—we have two months left. Two months to fill our pockets with nuggets."

Jack found himself pacing back and forth like the miner in the lobby below.

"Ruination!" Jack said. "We've come all this way, and now—we're no closer."

"Nonsense," said Praiseworthy. "We'll be on tomorrow's riverboat, I promise you."

"But how will we pay the fare?"

"Let me see," Praiseworthy said. "We have thirty-eight dollars left. That's a start, isn't it? Of course, we'll have our room and meals to pay. But if I detect one thing in the air—it's opportunity."

WHEN they returned to the lobby, the shaggy miner was still there, pacing and muttering in his dusty beard. He glanced at Jack, a dark, sudden glance—and then the butler and the boy went out on the street.

They had hardly gone half a block when Jack saw the miner in the floppy hat behind them. The black pistol in his belt suddenly looked larger. But Jack said nothing. The miner could want nothing with them. Nothing at all.

He was still at their heels when the butler and the boy crossed the street. Now Jack was beginning to feel anxious. Even a little scared. Finally he looked up at Praiseworthy.

"He's following us."

"Who's following us?" asked the butler.

by

Sid Fleischman

"That miner from the hotel."

"Stuff and nonsense. The streets are free to everyone."

"But he's following us, Praiseworthy."

"Nothing to fear in broad daylight, Master Jack," said Praiseworthy.

Turning, he stopped. The miner stopped and they stood face to face.

"Sir," said the butler. "Are you following us?"

"Ruination, I shore am! No offence, gents," the miner said. "They call me Quartz Jackson, and I just come in from the diggin's. My fiancée's due on the stage any minute... And that's just it."

"And that's just what?" said Praiseworthy.

"WE'RE supposed to be gettin' married. But ruination—when she takes one look at me, she's goin' to think I'm part grizzly bear!" He whipped off his floppy hat and his dusty hair fell out on all sides. "I been trampin' every street in town lookin' for a barber, but they're all at the mines. Anyway, that's why I couldn't help starin' at the lad here."

"Me?" said Jack.

"Why, that yeller hair of yours looks fresh from the barber shop. I figured you must have flushed

ANOTHER INSTALMENT OF OUR EXCITING SERIAL ABOUT THE GOLD RUSH DAYS

BY THE GREAT

HORN SPOON!



"He's following us," Jack said

out a barber, and maybe you'd do Quartz Jackson the favour of leadin' me to him."

"I haven't been to a barber," said Jack, "unless you mean Praiseworthy."

"Praiseworthy?"

"At your service," said the butler.

The miner's face broke into a sunny smile.

"I'd be much obliged if you'd barber me up, Mr. Praiseworthy," he said. "Name your price."

"But I'm not a barber, sir. I'm a butler; but anyway, I couldn't accept any money for merely—"

"Well, now, that's mighty big of you. Tell you what I'll do. I'll let you have all the hair you cut off."

Praiseworthy and Jack exchanged fresh glances. The man was some sort of lunatic after all. What earthly use did they have for the man's shorn locks?

But it seemed wise to humour him, and Praiseworthy said, "I'll be glad to help you. Consider it a modest wedding present."

TWENTY minutes later, the miner was seated on a nail keg in a corner of the hotel porch, insisting that every lock be caught as it fell. Jack was kept busy holding a washpan under Praiseworthy's busy scissors.

"If you get to the Hangtown diggin's," the miner said, "tell 'em you're a friend of Quartz Jackson. Say I'll be comin' home with my bride in a couple of weeks."

"Yes, sir," said Jack, catching a lock of hair.

When Praiseworthy had finished, the miner turned to look at himself in the hotel window pane, and almost jumped out of his jack-boots.

"By the Great Horn Spoon!" he said. "Is that me?" Why, I'd forgot I was so young!"

Quartz Jackson was a fine-look-

ing gent at that, Jack thought. He had good teeth and an easy smile. Except for his revolver, his horn spoon and his red flannel shirt, he hardly seemed the same man.

But what did he expect them to do with the hair cuttings? Stuff a mattress?

"Your fiancée will be very pleased," smiled Praiseworthy. "Our congratulations on your forthcoming marriage, sir."

"Much obliged, Praiseworthy. You saved me from certain ruination. The least I can do is learn you how to work a gold pan. Water boy! You there! Fetch us a bucket of dew over here."

The miner paid for the water by taking a pinch of fine gold dust from his buckskin pouch. Jack was eager to get the hang of mining, and Quartz Jackson, peculiar or not, was clearly an expert.

"Gimme the washpan, young Jack."

Jack handed over the tin pan, piled high with chestnut whiskers and trimmings. The miner wet them down with fresh water and began to swish the pan around.

"Gold's heavy," he explained. "Nothin' heavier. Even the yeller dust sinks to the bottom if you keep workin' the pan. Like this."

Then he handed the washpan to Jack and taught him the motion. The water turned brown from the dirt and mud that had gathered in Quartz Jackson's whiskers and hair.

Finally Jack poured off everything—everything but a thin residue at the bottom of the pan. His eyes opened like blossoms.

GOLD dust!

"Why, look there!" the miner roared with laughter. "The boy's panned himself some colour! Since I give you the whiskers and all—the gold is yours!"

Jack had never known a more exciting moment in his life. The

grains of dust sparkled like yellow fire—and there was even a flake or two as well.

Half an hour later, Praiseworthy and Jack were plucking opportunity from the air. They put up a sign that said—

FREE HAIRCUTS

Miners Only

It was about a week before Praiseworthy and Jack reached the diggings.

They had caught the four o'clock riverboat at the end of the Long Wharf. Dr. Buckbee came to see them off, but he was staying behind in San Francisco.

"I'm going to wait for Cut-Eye Higgins," he said. "He's bound to turn up with my map. I'll meet every ship that comes in until I get my hands on the scoundrel!"

FINALLY they arrived at Sacramento City. A shore cannon went off, raising a cloud of dust, to announce the arrival of the boat. Townspeople flocked to the river. Praiseworthy and Jack carried their picks and shovels, gold pans and carpetbags through the crowd.

A stage was leaving for the mines at two o'clock. To raise their fare, the butler and the boy had no choice but to sell off a pick and a shovel. Mining tools were in great demand and prices were astonishing. The pick and shovel brought one hundred dollars—each.

After paying their stage fare, Praiseworthy poured the gold dust left over into the tips of all five fingers of his left glove. He had difficulty getting his hand in, but he made it. His left hand felt as heavy as an anvil. The dust was their grubstake, and he had no intention of losing it to some rascal along the way.

They were the last passengers to board the stagecoach, and Jack was squeezed in beside Praiseworthy and a red-faced man wearing a string tie. In the seat opposite sat two Frenchmen in brand new jackboots and checked shirts with the creases still in them. Between them, and opposite Jack so that their knees almost touched, sat a man in a dusty linen suit with his straw hat pulled down over his face. He had been sleeping that way from the moment Praiseworthy and Jack had entered the coach.

The team of horses raised red clouds of dust and Jack watched the passing sights as best he could.

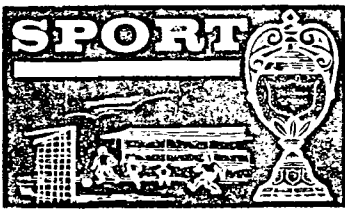
The man in the straw hat slept on. A large ruby ring glistened from his finger. With the jostling of the stage his coat fell open and Jack could see the butt of a duelling pistol tucked inside his belt.

It was almost an hour before he awoke. His hand rested on the pistol and he tipped the hat back off his face.

HE looked straight into Jack's eyes with the faintest of smiles, as if he hadn't been asleep at all, and Jack very nearly jumped.

It was Mr. Cut-Eye Higgins!

To be continued
© Sid Fleischman, 1963



ARE YOU GOING CLIMBING?

FROM the first week in January the Scottish Youth Hostels Association is holding mountaineering courses at Glencoe. The first course opens on the 4th January and there will be weekly sessions until 21st March.

Each course, including accommodation, instruction, and hire of equipment is only £7 a week.

For further particulars, write now to the Scottish Youth Hostels Association, 7 Bruntsfield Crescent, Edinburgh 10.

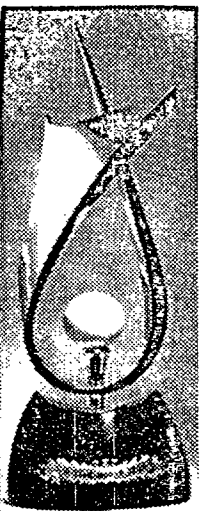
CAMPERS' EXHIBITION

THE sixth annual Camping and Outdoor Life Exhibition (COLEX '64) will be open at London's Olympia from 3rd-11th January. Biggest indoor event in the camping enthusiast's year, it will have 250 stands representing every facet of camping and outdoor life.

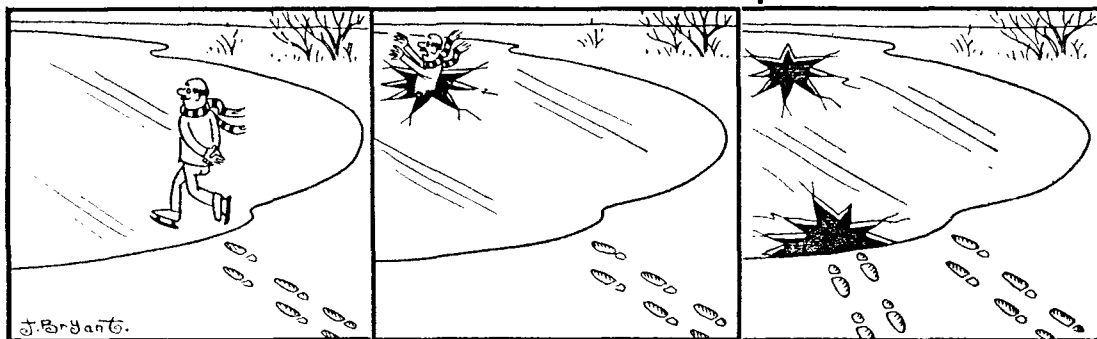
Among the special attractions will be angling and skiing demonstrations, and judo displays by the Irish Guards.

Admission between ten in the morning and five in the afternoon of the first day will be 5s. But in the evening (the exhibition remains open until nine) and on all subsequent days the charge will be 3s. for adults and 2s. for children.

NEW GOLF TROPHY



This is the new trophy awarded annually to the Scotsman, anywhere in the world, who is judged to have done most to further the cause of golf. The first winner was Tommy Armour, at the Winged Foot Golf Club, Larchmont, New York.



ICE-TIME AT GRENOBLE

THE European Ice Figure-Skating and Dancing championships are being held at Grenoble, France, from 14th-18th of this month. In the figure-skating events, Britain has a team of four—Sally-Anne Stapleford, Diana Clifton-Peach, Carol Warner, and Hywel Evans. There will be three couples in the ice-dancing events.



Sally-Anne Stapleford, with the trophy she received after winning the British ladies' figure-skating championship

As the new British figure-skating champion, Sally-Anne will hope to improve on the performance she gave in Budapest a year ago. In the European championships there she took sixth place, followed by Diana Clifton-Peach.

Carol Warner's selection for the European and Winter Olympics teams is a great personal triumph. A year ago she injured a leg so badly that she could not skate for months. This gave her little time in which to earn a place in the British teams.

Satisfaction

By dint of sheer hard work and long hours of training, the Streatham girl fought back—and had the satisfaction of gaining third place in the British championships in November.

Hopes of a win at Grenoble cannot be high. In fact, it seems there is no girl in the world capable of beating the wonderful Sjoukje Dijkstra. The Dutch girl—holder of World and European titles, and runner-up in the 1960

Olympics—is in a class of her own.

Hywel Evans is also a new British champion, taking the title from Malcolm Cannon last November.

Born in the Rhondda Valley, Hywel lives in London and, like Sally-Anne and Carol, trains at the fine Streatham rink. He competed in the European championships last year, but could only finish 18th. A vastly-improved skater since then, Hywel should do much better at Grenoble.

ICE-DANCE champions David Hickinbottom and Janice Sawbridge will hope to take over the title won last year by Britain's Michael Phillips and Linda Shearman, who are no longer competing. With them will be the Richmond couple, Roger Kennerson and Yvonne Suddick, and Ian Phillips and Marjorie McCoy of Liverpool.

In this section, however, the mostly likely winners are the Czechoslovakian brother-and-sister team—P. Roman and E. Romanova.

ALL-ROUND ALFIE

SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL

THIS is the Diamond Jubilee season of the English Schools' Football Association. In next week's CN, Mr. S. E. Tye, secretary of the ESFA, will write about those 60 years of schoolboy football, and also about the trophy competition.

Draw your Sports Master's attention to this announcement.

Sports masters and others interested in getting tickets for the season's schoolboy international matches should apply to the following for full details:

England v Ireland on the Reading Football Club ground on 21st March: Mr. Brian L. Wright, "The Rise", 151 Kentwood Hill, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks. Tel: Reading 68330.

England v Wales on the Recreation Ground, Chesterfield, on 4th April: Mr. A. D. Wilson, 4 Halcyon Approach, Wingerworth, Chesterfield. Tel: Chesterfield 4288 (home). 5825 (school).

England v Germany at the Empire Stadium, Wembley, 25th April: Tickets for seats are issued through affiliated Associations.

For enclosure tickets: Mr. R. Charlton, 64 Winchester Road, Andover, Hants. Tel: Andover 2677 (home). 2626 (school).

Scotland v England at Dens Park, Dundee, on 2nd May: Mr. W. Steele, 34 Glenmoy Avenue Dundee. Tel: Dundee 86745.

Wales v Ireland at Vetch Field, Swansea, on 22nd February: Mr. B. Williams, "Gwynfa", Cwmrhydyceirw Road, Morriston, Swansea. Tel: 53609 (school).

Wales v Scotland, Ninian Park, Cardiff, 21st March: Mr. A. C. Reed, 71 Canada Road, Gabalfa, Cardiff. Tel: 23719 (home).

Tickets for these matches, and for the match against England (at Chesterfield) may also be obtained through: Mr. F. J. Ball, 8 Eureka Place, Ebbw Vale, Mon. Tel: 2230.



ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Crossword Puzzle (P. 4): ACROSS:
1 Equator. 5 Graph. 8 Glucose. 9 Alias. 10 Dim. 11 Reposes. 13 Orate. 14 Severe. 17 Greedy. 18 Basic. 19 Spurred. 23 Eft. 24 Robed. 25 Amiable. 26 Steed. 27 Eternal. **DOWN:** 1 Elgar. 2 Usurp. 3 Tools. 4 Reeds. 5 Glamour. 6 Agitate. 7 Hosiery. 12 Eye. 14 Suburbs. 15 Visible. 16 Receded. 17 Gap. 19 Stage. 20 Alive. 21 Robin. 22 Dwell. (P. 10): Do you know? Maundy Thursday; Maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum*, commandment; coins are given to as many old

people as there are years in the sovereign's age; Thomas Newcomen (1712); Greece; sizes of paper; 1620. **Outline Name:** Mozart. **Instruments:** Please: Cymbals, bassoon, piccolo, trumpet. **Three from One:** Silent, gait, Nile. It's a "group" word meaning "clever people." **Odd one Out:** Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. All the others are in Spain. **Circle Classic:** Huckleberry Finn. **Complete the Proverbs:** He who hesitates is lost; Many hands make light work; Well begun is half done; Fine feathers make fine birds; No news is good news.

how did Sue spend her wonderful Christmas?



It all began with a snowed-up train and a mail robbery! But, in the end, it turned out to be the most wonderful Christmas that Sue Day, of the Happy Days family, had ever spent! You'll love this exciting story—

No. 59. SUE'S WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS

And don't miss the thrilling companion tale of your favourite ballerina

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